REPUBLIC OF KENYA

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF LAIKIPIA

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 6th August, 2025

The House met at the Assembly Chambers at 10.00 a.m.

[The Deputy Speaker (Hon. Anthony Theuri) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL

Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum?

(Lack of quorum confirmed)

Deputy Speaker: I direct the Serjeant at Arms to ring the bell for 10 minutes.

(Quorum bell rung for 7 minutes)

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Joseph Gitahi?

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Hon. Speaker, we now have quorum.

Deputy Speaker: Clerk, confirm whether we have quorum?

(Clerk confirmed achievement of quorum confirmed)

Deputy Speaker: I direct the Serjeant at Arms to stop the bell.

STATEMENT

LEASE OF RADIOLOGY AND RENAL EQUIPMENT

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 45 (2) c, I wish to seek a statement from the Chairpersons, Health Services Committee regarding the above-mentioned subject matter.

Hon. Speaker, in the 1st Supplementary Budget for the year 2024/2025 there is a project dubbed Lease of Radiology and renal equipment (an ongoing project) at a cost of Kshs. 105,000,000. The said project is under the program Laikipia Health Services medical equipment support.

Hon. Speaker, Ndindika Health centre in Githiga ward is one the beneficiaries of the said equipment. However, the equipment is lying idle yet people are dying out here due to health complications and others are forced to travel far and wide to obtain health services that can be conducted in our health facilities with such modern equipment.

Hon. Speaker, I hereby request the Chairperson for Health Services Committee to inform this House on why such equipment that is crucial for healthcare is lying idle in our health facilities.

Hon. Speaker, I wish to state that Ndindika Health Centre is one of the centres that are serving the highest population. People have health complications yet we have machines that are lying idle there. This week, we have had a donation of Kshs.50 million from the Mpesa

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foundation to upgrade the maternity wing of that hospital. How can we be relying on donors yet this House has budgeted for such a huge program which consumes such huge sums of money yet our people are not getting value for their money.

It is because of such issues, Hon. Speaker, that I seek that the chairperson of the Health Committee brings an answer to this House so that I am also able to relay the same to the people of Githiga. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Gitahi. Today we are privileged to have the Chairman of the Health Committee here, one Nicholas Lempaira. So that he does not give an excuse that he does not have the hard copy, I would like to ask the Serjeant at Arms to come for this paper and hand it over to… oh, you have one? How much time do you need to respond to the statement? It is very serious. One hundred and five million lying idle and people are dying is a serious problem.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. You are also one of the Members of the Health Committee. I would request that we give an answer to this statement when we come back from recess. So, two weeks.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nicholas Lempaira. The Office of the Speaker gives you two weeks. On the same, I would the Hon. Members to work on the report that we are currently working on, that we should be having the CECMs summoned here. After this, we shall have a *Kamukunji* to deliberate on the same because at one point or another it will be very beneficial to have the CECM for Health in this House.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ALTERATION OF THE ASSEMBLY CALENDAR

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 29(4), this Assembly resolves to alter its calendar as adopted on 4th March 2025 so as to:

i. Commence its long recess on Thursday, 7th August 2025

ii. Resume its regular sittings for the third part of Third Session on Tuesday, 16th September 2025.

As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, we want to alter the calendar so that we can go on recess. On the first week, we will be having the devolution conference. Then we will proceed for our recess as per the normal calendar, which will end on 16th September 2025. I would like Hon. Gitahi to second the motion. Thank you.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Asante sana, Mheshimiwa Spika kwa kunipa hii nafasi ili niafiki mswada ulio mbele yetu. Hawa Wabunge wanahitaji likizo. Vilevile, juma lijalo tunahitaji kuhudhuria kongamano la Ugatuzi. Ni muhimu sana ile tuweze kupeleka ile ruwaza, tujue tumetoka wapi na tunaelekea wapi, na tutapitia njia ipi.

Mheshimiwa Spika, tunahitaji pia wakati zaidi ili hawa Wabunge waweze kukutana na wananchi pale ambapo wanawakilisha. Wewe, Mheshimiwa Spika, ni shahidi kwamba tumekuwa hapa kwenye mikutano ya kamati na mengineyo ili kuhakikisha kuwa Bunge linaendelea na utendakazi wake kwa njia ifaayo. Mheshimiwa Spika, wajua Kiswahili hakina maneno mengi. Tunaambiwa kwamba ukifanya kazi pasipo kupata likizo, hilo sio jambo zuri.

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Kuna usemi wa Kiingereza ni vile hatuwezi leta hayo maneno kwa yale tunaongea kwa sasa. Nataka kusema naunga mkono huu mswada ambao umeletwa na Mheshimiwa Umija ndio tuende likizo kwa sababu ambazo nimeweza kudokeza. Asante sana, Bwana Spika.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Hon. Speaker, I stand to oppose the programme for recess. I have noted with a lot of concern that we are just doing our recess like a joke. We just come here and present a programme, we go for a recess and we don't go anywhere. Sometimes we need to be serious. All these things we are doing here, the public will get them. From January, we have gone for like five recesses with no fruits. Just recess, but we are not doing anything. This is retrogressive.

Hon. Speaker, and that's the same thing we are discussing here, that in this Assembly, the systems and the institutions are failing. You find that we have HBC Members here, they just report to the HBC, then they go away. They leave other Members to attend the chambers. We need to change. Nowadays it's very risky. You might think we are doing things here and you are very cunning then the public will come and do some very bad things. You cannot tell me that from January, and now this is like the sixth recess. Even if you ask what we are going to do at the Devolution Conference, I'm very sure, even the facilitation from here to the devolution conference, no one will be facilitated. So why are we going for the recess?

Mr. Speaker, we cannot just do things because it's like a habit. It's like telling your child that every time when you wake up, you take tea and you go out play. But even you don't guide the child, you don't provide the toys. It's just a matter of just, so let it be, let it go on record. I Mugambi Gatati, I oppose these recess programmes without proper arrangement. These Assembly is dying. So many committees, institutions, even if you ask the management, what are they planning about the devolution conference, about these Members?

They don't have an answer. They just tell you, oh, we don't have money, so Members will not attend. So why then are we going for the recess? If there is no facilitation for the devolution conference? This is a very serious thing I'm trying to...

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Gitahi, what's your point of order?

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: I just wanted to seek clarification from the Member when he says that this Assembly is dying. But I have not seen the symptoms of death. Thank you.

[Laughter]

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Joseph Gitahi insists that you give the symptoms of death. I'm not saying of... Is it a sudden death or something you have been seeing coming?

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Hon. Speaker, I'm not talking of the physical death.

Deputy Speaker: Are you speaking figuratively or literally?

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: I'm just doing symbolism. I'm saying when something is going to fall or to collapse, in English you can say it is dying. So, I'm just saying that this Assembly is dying and the symptoms are there. If you fight these HBC Members, they just attend the HBC, they don't attend the chambers. So, to them, earning is more important than their presence here.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Nicholas Lempaira you are a Member of HBC. What is your point of order?

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Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Mr. Speaker, I think Hon. Gatati should wake up and tell this Assembly, what does it mean by saying the Assembly is dying? Secondly, if he thinks that this Assembly is doing nothing, he's part of the failing system. So, you are not away from it. I don't know whether I have to answer him now or when my time comes?

Deputy Speaker: I would like to wait for your time. I gave him the chance to complete his submissions. You'll have ample time. Kindly, I'm going to protect him until he clarifies how the House is dying.

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: No problem. Honourable Speaker, I'm a patient man. If they want some clarification, I can accommodate that. I want to clarify two things that Hon. Lempaira is talking about and I have clarified the first one. When I'm talking about dying, I'm not talking about the physical death. I am talking about if something is collapsing, you can say simply in English, this thing is dying. So, I'm not saying of death, similar to the same of a human being.

Secondly, he is saying that if this Assembly is dying, he is using the same statement that I'm part and parcel of the Assembly. That's the reason I'm raising my point that it is now becoming habit of us being given a meaningless recess. That we are told that from now, we are going for a whole month.

Just give me the activities that will happen in that one month. If you tell me that next week we attend the Devolution Conference, ask the management of this Assembly. I know even the Speaker doesn't know even the program of Devolution Conference. But he's the head here. He's the head of this Assembly. But it's just something becoming a habit. Sending people home for one month, doing nothing. If you ask Hon. Kamara, he has just come from his home, like 150 kilometres away.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Veronica, I can see your mic is on.

Hon. Veronica Ikunyua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it's fair for Hon. Gatati to stand here and lecture us. Mr. Speaker, this *Bunge* has programmes. I can count how many times he attends this Assembly. So, this *Bunge* is not failing. It's him who is failing. I don't think there is a need of coming here and blaming each other. You need to blame yourself. For this Assembly to proceed, we all need to attend this Assembly. I agree with him that the House Business Committee are bringing business then walk away. That is correct. But the rest, it is not correct. He needs to clarify why he's lecturing us.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Gatati, the House feels that you are lecturing and not giving a solution. So, on the same…

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Hon. Speaker, if the reception of the Hon. Member is that I am lecturing her, I withdraw. Whatever I am trying to say here is very serious and not a joke. I am not making fun here but what I saying here will come to your desk. Nowadays, we don't just do things but we do things that we are accountable for. Hon. Veronica, I am not attacking a single Member but I am saying that as an Assembly, we should wake up.

What I am trying to bring here is that the reason why you are being given a recess is that next week there will be a Devolution Conference. If you ask the management of this Assembly through the Hon. Speaker how these Members will go and attend the conference, there is no answer. Then, why are you giving us the recess and that is what I am trying to say but not attacking you Hon. Lempaira.

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It is now becoming a habit that if next week you hear there is a ball game, then the management sends the Members for a recess without a plan for that ball game or a Devolution Conference. I understand that Devolution Conferences are very important to this Assembly and last year I believe that this is the only Assembly that did not participate in the Devolution Conference in a serious way. So, those are the points that I am bringing but I am not attacking anyone. If anyone feels that I am attacking them, then I withdraw because I don't like being personal.

I just like to discuss things which affect us because now we are two years to the elections and these things will determine a lot. Remember that majority of voters are young people who read these Hansards and how you contribute in the Assembly. They get that an MCA from Salama was given five recesses from January and I cannot be able to account for them. Therefore, I am not lecturing anyone. If you feel that I am lecturing you, I am ready to stop there and let nature take its course. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, speaking from the management view, I would like to hear the clarification of the same. Who is the management of this institution?

Hon. Samuel Mugambi: Hon. Speaker, when I am talking of the management, i.e. is the Speaker, the Clerk and the Assembly Service Board because they are the three important management levels. Even if you give us a forum whereby, we meet the board and ask them the plan they have for the Devolution Conference, no one has got a plan and yet you want us to go for recess that is already a dilemma. We have got Members of Service Board here like Hon. Lempaira. Can you ask him what they are planning for the Devolution Conference? He doesn't have a plan.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Gatati. I don't think that you are in a position to answer on his behalf. I will give the floor to answer for HBC and the service board of this institution.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am not going to answer Hon. Gatati because if I answer him here, I am not seeking for clips to go around the social media. After the *kamukunji* we are going to give you the answer. Two, if you want to be in HBC, there is a way but don't hide behind the bush. When we go to *kamukunji*, bring it up. HBC is like any other committee whereby you Chair. You are the Chairperson of Cohesion. How many meetings have you held or how many reports have you brought here? So, if you come and blame the HBC, then that is your failure. You coming to the Assembly is not the work of the HBC but your duty.

So, do not say HBC go sign there because we also have other things to attend to in our wards. Hon. Speaker, I want to stand here and support the motion. Devolution is a countrywide issue and there are things we can answer here and others we cannot answer on record. There is a way we plan our things and do them but we do not need to expose ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask this House that this devolution conference is very important to us, to go and learn what other counties are doing. Therefore, I want to ask you to support the motion so that we can go for that break, and when we come back, we can solve the mess that we have. Thank you.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also wish to support the motion of the day because most of us are probably thinking we are talking of the entire recesses but we are only talking of one week because the other four weeks are already in the calendar which was approved a long time ago by this House, that from 14th August to 16th September is our

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recess. So, what we are discussing is between now and 14th. It is additional recess of one week and so the discussion should only be on this one week, why are we breaking for this one week?

Hon. Speaker, in regards to this Devolution Conference, the management that registered the devolution conference; probably we cannot ask the Service Board or yourself because it is prepared by the Council of Governors which is countrywide. So, we may not manage to say what they have planned or not planned but at least we should get a programme of that so that we are able to attend the same.

Hon. Speaker, this additional one week is so important because previously when we went for Devolution Conference, we engaged with other counties and that has brought fruits to this county. So, these seven days are so important to the Laikipia County Assembly. Having said that, I do not want to dispute what Hon. Gatati is saying and I do not want anyone to take it lightly because the truth is we are headed in the wrong direction.

Hon. Speaker, I do not want any media people to capture me even now. I am telling these Members that I do not want it to go anywhere beyond here, since I am talking to only you, Members. What he said is a very serious thing because it is true we are headed in the wrong direction and very soon we will be embarrassed. We will get total embarrassment in this House.

Hon. Speaker, as Hon. Lempaira has just said, it is the responsibility of every Member to come to this House regardless of their committee. It is your responsibility, Hon. Salim, when you come to House Business Committee and later you come to this House. You are paid for coming to this House but you are not paid to go to your representatives. So, when you see somebody who does not come here in the Chamber, if I was the one holding the law, that person should not even be paid because why are you paid for work not done? You should only be paid for work done.

Hon. Members, it is so embarrassing that in this Chamber we can have three or four days consecutively without attaining quorum. If at all you feel that we are Hon. Members, let us behave honourably and if anyone feels that what I am saying is lecturing anyone, so be it. I won't apologize because it is the truth. You have to be responsible and you have to behave honourably because you are Hon. Members. You are supposed to be paid for the work done.

Hon. Speaker, what I am trying to say is that we must be serious. We were all sworn in here and we know what we were sworn in to do and so, let us do what we swore to do. In fact, the people of Umande never elected me to come and serve in any committee. They do not even know that there are committees but they elected me to be the Member of the County Assembly. So, any other business is additional, the core business is coming here.

So going to a committee and failing to come here is a criminal offence. You have to be here in the Chamber and that is why the people of Umande elected me. They don't even know whether there are committees here. That is other matters. So, that core mandate should be in us and we are supposed to take with a lot of seriousness.

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Gitahi, kindly state your point of order.

Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Hon. Speaker, I am just disturbed by the lies that are being spilled on this floor…

Deputy Speaker: Honourable Member, are you speaking on a point of clarification or point of information.

Deputy Speaker: A point of information.

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Hon. Joseph Gitahi: Hon. Speaker, what I am saying is that the Member is telling us here that they were never elected to come and sit in any committee. Hon. Speaker, the law is very clear that Assemblies work through committees. Even if we have some other issues, this is very important. Hon. Speaker, you cannot stand on this floor using taxpayer's money to bring misinformation. Hon. Speaker, you should control some of these utterances. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Gitahi. Hon. Daniel continue with your submission and clarify on the same.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Unfortunately, Hon. Speaker I cannot be controlled when I am speaking the truth. If it is not true, tell him to go and tell the people of Githiga I do not go to the chamber because I go to Agriculture Committee. Tell him to go and start in Githiga and tell the people that. We must be honest those are some of the additional things that you get from this Assembly. You have to attend this House sittings. Do not hide in the committees. Hon. Speaker, that is why there is time set by the Standing Orders for you…

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Nicholas, what is you point of order? You seem excited.

Hon. Nicholas Lempaira: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I also want to ask for clarification from you. I think we are diverting out of the debate. Our Standing Orders are very clear and I am not sure which Standing Order it is but I know it is there that when it is a motion we stick to it. We are going beyond discussing things that are not here. Coming here to question each other on what we are supposed to do…

Deputy Speaker: Hon. Nicholas, I can see where you are heading. I am following the debate clearly and no one is out of order. Whatever they are discussing is in line with this Assembly. Kindly, sit down and switch off your microphone as Hon. Daniel Mugweru finishes his submission.

Hon. Daniel Mugweru: Hon. Speaker, you know I am a Christian and I read the Word of God. The truth is the wicked run even when there is no one pursuing them. That is how it is. It is very clear. You look at them point from one corner then you look at the register. They are the ones who do not come. The wicked run even when no one is pursuing them. That is why they are stranded in this House.

Hon. Speaker, we must be clear, let us come and do what we were elected to do. Hon. Speaker, part of what you were elected for is going for Devolution Conference because it has been prepared by the Council of Governors and Laikipia County is not an exemption. We are part of that. So, one who is saying that we are out of today's agenda. That is the agenda and the agenda is very clear that we want to add one week extra to the four weeks that we were to go because of that Devolution Conference.

So, we shall go and it is important. As Hon. Members, make sure because we have been given that opportunity and you are paid for it. Make sure you go for that Devolution Conference. That is clear, there is nothing to discuss about it. The same way, come to the chamber. You are paid for it. Go to your committees, you are paid for it. Go to your people whom you represent because you cannot come to the chamber just to say things. You are supposed to represent those people.

Go to them and get their views and bring them to the House. So, it is your responsibility to come to the House, to go see your people, go to the Devolution Conference and go to your committees. You cannot escape any duty. Those are your duties. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

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Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, as you all are aware, the Speaker is not supposed to be biased by taking any sides. You have debated and it is clear we are only discussing about one week which is beyond our hands. It is only one week and I pray that we agree on this. As we all know by now that we do not put questions on this but I am being guided we put. I was afraid that we are going to go on a different direction but I urge after this, kindly remain behind as we have our *Kamukunji*. I call upon Hon. Umija to reply.

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had a robust conversation and discussion. As we commence our recess which commences on 7th August, 2025 for the Devolution Conference, I think what has been discussed with other Members is to ensure that we do our due diligence in terms of our work, where we are supposed to work. I believe that people will support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

INFORMAL MEETING AFTER PLENARY SITTING

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Umija. Once again, I urge you that after we adjourn to kindly remain behind as we have our Kamukunji meeting before we go to our respective wards.

(Question put and agreed to)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Catherine Umija: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move the following motion;

THAT pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 29(3) this Assembly do adjourn until Tuesday 16th September, 2025.

Mr. Speaker, this is according to our Calendar that we are supposed to resume our recess for four weeks starting 11th August, 2025 to 16th September. Mr. Speaker, as you know this is part of our yearly calendar that Members should take their recess this particular time as it has been our tradition. I urge Hon. Salim to second the motion.

Hon. Salim Edung: I second.

(Question proposed)

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Speaker: This House stand adjourned until Tuesday, 16th September, 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

The House rose at 10.50 a.m.

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